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## The "Little House" That You Will Like

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# The "Little House" That You Will Like

Planned and Furnished by HELEN PASCHAL

WHAT WOMAN is there who hasn't at some time or other in her life planned a small house which in fancy she has decorated to suit herself?

Perhaps it was a house at which an architect would scoff. In fact it may have been one of the kind which may be made only of dream stuffs and will not lend themselves to the tiresome unwieldiness of wood and stone and cement. But even so, the house was tiny; it was sunshiny; it was airy and it had the appearance of being spacious. It wasn't at all a crowded city apartment sort of affair and yet it was all on one floor and everything was just within reach of everything else.

This is a story of just such a small house except that—wonder of wonders—this four room cottage not only grew out of a dream but has been approved by an architect as well. It has been planned with an eye for convenience and yet it looks spacious. It is a house which could be simply and easily furnished without too great an expense.

The large living room and dining room—always the most important room in a small house—is on the south and east—the sunniest and most cheerful part of the house. In a room which promises to have sunshine all the year round as this room does, almost any kind of a color scheme might be used. Blues which would not do at all for a north room would make a lovely color background here. In the living room especially, deep rose could be used to introduce a warm friendly note as a safe guard against the time when the weather man might send a gloomy day or the lamplight prove too glaring. Soft cream or buff walls would make a harmonious background for such a color scheme.

For draperies in this room, since the walls are plain, it would be lovely to use some plain heavy curtain stuff dyed to match the color scheme and faced round with gay bands of cretonne. If the exact shade of dye which was desired could not be found, then several colors could be mixed and the resulting color tested on a piece of the material before the drapes were dyed. If the drapes were purchased, they would not be of a heavy napped material but more likely of some of the pretty inexpensive blue and rose cretonnes which could be found in any fair sized dry goods store.

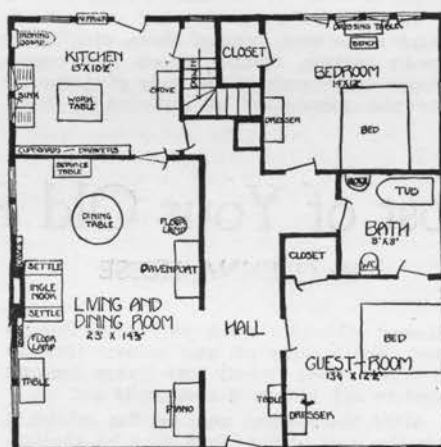
Glass curtains of transparent weave would go splendidly with such drapes. Since there are seven windows in this room, the curtains would have to be carefully selected in order that they would be nice looking without being too expensive.

Expenditures for rugs always depend largely on the kind of floor in the room. If the floor is at all good looking one 8x10 rug for the living room and two or three small rag rugs for the dining room would cover the floor sufficiently. If the floors are not particularly decorative, two medium rugs of the same size would be best to use. It is so easy to buy really good looking rag rugs now that both rugs might be of this old fashioned stuff; or a clever house wife could make the rugs or dye the stuff and have them made.

A piano would fit snugly into the corner next to the hall and the front of the house. Or if there is to be no piano then a victrola would fit into the same place—for there must be music in the house.

The place for the davenport is marked on the plan. It could be one of those blue tapestry affairs that one sees nowadays which are so good looking and "comfy." Such davenports are very much cheaper than they were a few years ago and an ordinary priced one would not cut such a terrible slash in a moderate purse.

No doubt two floor lamps would be too great an extravagance, even tho the



COTTAGE FLOOR PLAN

clever housewife might make the rose shades herself. But if it were possible to place one by the davenport and one between the table and the fire-place seat, wouldn't the living room be a most attractive place on a cold wintry night, with a lire burning in the substantial brick fire-place.

This completes the living room furniture except for the chairs, (two would be enough, one of wicker and one of tapestry) and the table for the magazines. The books would be kept in the built-in book cases.

The table in the dining room would be one on which could be used unbleached muslin and other inexpensive lunch cloths. There would be four chairs or more to match the table. Since there is no piece of furniture which is uglier than a buffet which has gone out of style a plainly built service table could take its place nicely as far as holding food is concerned. The drawers and cupboards in the kitchen would offer a storage place for the supply of silver and linen usually kept in the buffet.

Pictures for this house would want to be few in number and good in quality. One picture above the service table would be enough in the dining room—but let it be one which will add to the appearance of the room instead of a "fruit" picture, a string of "pussycats" or a panel of stupid flowers.

The hall of the house is the pride of the designer's heart. It adds at least fifty percent to the air of roominess which is a unique characteristic of so small a house. It would contain a con-

sole table of walnut or mahogany with a mirror above. It is surprising what lovely console tables can be made from an old table or desk. I saw one, not long ago, which was made from an old walnut drop leaf table which had belonged to the grandmother of a friend of mine. It had been an ordinary old table with the native beauty of its wood covered over with an ugly stain. This stain had been removed leaving the beautiful walnut in its natural color. One of the drop leaves was raised up at the back of the table and one was left hanging down at the front. When the wood was polished it was as beautiful a console table as one could wish. One or two round rugs, braided or croched from rags would be sufficient floor covering for the hall.

Bedrooms are for comfort and rest and so the bedrooms need contain only simple furniture. The owner's room on the northwest is large, 12x14, with four high casement windows on the west and an ordinary one on the north. A bed, a dressing table and bench, and a dresser would be sufficient furniture for the room. There is nothing prettier for a bed room than white or ivory furniture, but if one could afford mahogany, walnut or any of the better woods for a suite they are well worth paying a good price for. Cheap suites could be purchased, if they were made in good style, and refinished in white or ivory. Sandpaper, at least three coats of white or ivory paint and varnish will transform even old furniture, so that it would be a credit to any bedroom. In my own room I have the dresser and bedstead with which my mother "set up" housekeeping. In their gray enamel coats they look very little like that old battered bureau and bed which mother put away in the attic some years ago.

The rugs which would not need to be larger than 7x8 could be of a good quality of matting—the woven grass product which is easily cleaned and is fresh and inviting in the warmest weather. Because of their inexpensiveness and attractiveness, people are using these rugs more and more for their bedroom floors.

That brings us to wall paper. The general rule that figured wall paper is "taboo," could be violated in such a bedroom, if the furniture is of such a type that it would justify the violation. A four-poster bed and a colonial chair suggest daintily sprigged wall paper as easily as they suggest a spinning wheel or a fichue gown. If there were any doubt as to the suitability or beauty of a figured paper, it would be better to play safe with a plain one, having a figured border to match the color scheme.

The curtaining of the casement windows would be the most difficult problem of this room. Perhaps the best way to solve it would be to make for each window a net or muslin curtain fastened above and below with patent sash curtain springs. Then the group could be outlined with side drapes and a valance hung across the top of all four. If the wall paper be plain the mistress of the house might exercise her originality

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(Continued from page six)

in selecting figured material for the side drapes and valance.

In general these plans would also hold good for the guest room. Darker wood here, if light finish is used in the other bedroom, would give variety. A bed and dresser would be enough for the guest room.

Dotted swiss or dimity could be used for the curtains. A nice suggestion is to ruffle the curtains down the middle and across the bottom, hang two at a window and tie them back with a small cord about one-fourth of the way from the bottom.

Last of all we might look at the kitchen of the house. Could there be a much more convenient kitchen than this one? The ironing board fits into the wall cabinet; ice may be put into the refrigerator from the outside and food is placed on its shelves from the kitchen; the work table is on casters, making it movable to any part of the room and all sorts of storage space is provided by the shelves and drawers on the east. In case gas was not available a chimney would have to be built back of the stove, in the corner of the basement stairway.

Linoleum, the only practical covering for a kitchen floor, might be purchased in rug form as it is easier to put down and permits better cleaning than that purchased by the yard. The casement window over the sink gives a more pleasant outlook than bare walls for the dull task of dish washing. Curtains of checkered gingham to match the linoleum might be hung on patent springs as were the bedroom curtains. Sash curtains of the gingham may be pushed to the sides of the large window.

This in general is a suggestion for furnishing this small model house. In a small house more than anywhere else, simplicity in furnishings is the rule, and whatever individuality one uses in planning, furnishing and decorating the small house will be guided by this principle.

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